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## **Southwestern Hispanic-Owned IT Firm Received National Minority Business Awards**

### ***Albuquerque-based Businessman Honored by MBDA at its 24th National Minority Enterprise Development Week Awards Gala in Washington, DC***

**WASHINGTON**—The Minority Business Development Agency's National Director Ronald N. Langston recognized Andrew Baca, CEO of Abba Technologies, Inc. has been named the 2006 Male Minority Entrepreneur of the Year award winner during the 24<sup>th</sup> National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference in Washington, D.C. MBDA also recognized Abba Technologies, Inc. as the Minority Supplier of the Year.

"The MBDA Entrepreneur of the Year award honors entrepreneurs whose ingenuity, hard work and perseverance have created and sustained successful, growing business ventures," said National MBDA Director Ronald N. Langston. "Mr. Baca along with the remaining MBDA national winners truly exemplifies what it means to be a successful entrepreneur who has created wealth and jobs for building and sustaining economy and the community."

"At the highest level, MBDA shows how our government can promote America's ideals of equality of opportunity, personal initiative, and entrepreneurial spirit," said Baca. "We're a good example of a company that graduated from 8(a) and became bigger and better than what we were before."

Joining Abba in 1997, Andrew Baca brought a rich background in IT from his days at IBM. He expanded the company's technology and services, and established a more diversified customer base. In 2001, Baca led an employee purchase of the company from the original founders. With the help of the New Mexico Minority Business Enterprise Center, the company qualified for the 8(a) program and captured projects with the Department of Energy labs. The company's revenue was \$46,000,000 just last year.

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Baca was one of 7 Outstanding Minority Entrepreneur of the Year award winners recognized at this year's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National MED Week Awards Gala held on September 1st at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Actor/producer Tim Reid, best known in "*WKRP in Cincinnati*" and his actress wife, Daphne, best known as "Vivian" in the hit show "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" with Will Smith emceed the event. Award winners, their guests and over 1000 conference attendees also enjoyed musical selections by the Morgan State University Choir and the Pan American Symphony Orchestra.

MED Week, established by Presidential Proclamation each year since 1983, recognizes the role that minority entrepreneurs play in building the American economy through the creation of jobs, products and services, in addition to supporting their local communities. The National MED Week Conference is MBDA's signature event for the minority business enterprise community including the private, non-profit and government sectors. The conference promotes and celebrates the vital role minority businesses play in generating wealth, creating jobs and strengthening our nation's economy. It also serves as a forum to discuss the issues, trends and strategies affecting minority-owned business enterprises. This year's theme, *Minority Business Enterprises: Mastering the Supply Chain*, emphasizes how new market realities require minority businesses to strategically position their businesses in domestic and global supply chains.

Conference speakers include U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez, U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao, SBA Administrator Steven Preston, GSA Administrator Lurita Doan, and Dr. Matthew Slaughter of the President's Council of Economic Advisors. Premium sponsors of the 2006 Conference include BAE Systems, IBM, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon company, VISA, FedEx and GVCwinstar. With over 1,000 attendees, the National MED Week features a White House breakfast series, networking events, industry-driven workshops, State of Commerce luncheon, business expo, and an awards gala.

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#### **About the Minority Business Development Agency, US Department of Commerce**

Founded in 1971 and headquartered in Washington, DC, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. MBDA is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in this Nation. The Agency actively promotes the growth and competitiveness of large, medium and small minority business enterprises by offering management and technical assistance through a network of forty local business centers throughout the United States. Statistics on minority businesses and resources to build and sustain minority businesses are available at [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov).